

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A duplex image reading apparatus comprising:  
a transportation path for transporting a sheet  
original to a reading region by original transporting  
5 means;

first and second reading means located  
corresponding to respective transportation sides of  
said sheet original in the reading region of said  
transportation path,

10 wherein each of said first and second reading  
means is of such a configuration that a color reference  
portion used as a color reference for reading is  
opposed to a reading portion while the color reference  
portion and the reading portion are placed on two sides  
15 with the transportation sides of the sheet original  
interposed the two sides, and

wherein said first and second reading means are  
arranged so that one of said reading portion and said  
color reference portion is supported so as to be  
20 movable in a direction substantially perpendicular to  
an image reading surface of said reading portion.

2. A duplex image reading apparatus according to  
Claim 1, wherein said first reading means fixedly  
25 supports the reading portion relative to a main body of  
the apparatus,

wherein said second reading means supports the

reading portion so that the reading portion is movable in the direction substantially perpendicular to the image reading surface,

5 wherein the color reference portion of said first reading means is arranged to be movable in the direction substantially perpendicular to the image reading surface so that the sheet original is urged toward the image reading surface of said first reading means, and

10 wherein the color reference portion of said second reading means is fixed on a substantially same plane as the image reading surface of said first reading means and the image reading surface of said second reading means is urged so as to be brought into contact with  
15 the color reference portion of said second reading means.

3. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the color reference portion of said  
20 first reading means is provided above the transportation sides of the sheet original.

4. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the color reference portion of said  
25 second reading means is constructed integrally with supporting means for supporting the reading portion of said first reading means.

5. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reading portion of said second reading means is supported by a flexible, elastic member.

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6. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the reading portion of said second reading means is supported by a flexible, elastic member.

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7. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said flexible, elastic member is connected on a substantially same plane as the reading surface of the reading portion of said second reading means.

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8. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said flexible, elastic member is an electroconductive leaf spring connected to a ground in the main body of the apparatus.

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9. A duplex image reading apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said second reading means is located downstream of said first reading means in a transporting direction of the sheet original.

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10. An image reading apparatus comprising:

first reading means and second reading means disposed along a transportation path for transporting an original and arranged to read images on the original from two sides of the original,

5        wherein said first reading means is fixedly supported while said second reading means is rotatably supported;

10        first abutting means and second abutting means provided in said first reading means and said second reading means, respectively, and arranged to come into contact with each other outside an original transportation region;

15        reading urging means for urging said second reading means in a direction in which said second abutting means abuts against said first abutting means;

20        a first white reference disposed in a position opposite to said first reading means so that the original is urged toward an image reading surface of said first reading means, said first white reference having white color as a color reference of said first reading means; and

25        a second white reference disposed in a position opposite to said second reading means so that the original is urged toward an image reading surface of said second reading means, said second white reference having white color as a color reference of said second reading means.

11. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
10, wherein in an abutting state of said first abutting  
means and said second abutting means, the image reading  
surface of said first reading means and the image  
5 reading surface of said second reading means are  
substantially coplanar with each other.

12. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
11, wherein a force for urging said second white  
10 reference toward said second reading means is smaller  
than a force exerted by said reading urging means to  
urge said second reading means.

13. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
15 12, wherein one of the image reading surface of said  
first reading means and the image reading surface of  
said second reading means functions as one of said  
first and second abutting means.

20 14. An image reading apparatus comprising:  
image reading means for reading an image formed on  
a sheet;

pressing means for regulating a rise of the sheet  
over a predetermined height from an image reading  
25 position of said image reading means; and

charge eliminating means for eliminating static  
electricity accumulated on the sheet.

15. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said charge eliminating means is located upstream of said image reading position.

5           16. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said charge eliminating means is located downstream of said image reading position.

10           17. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said charge eliminating means eliminates the static electricity accumulated on the sheet, from at least one of a side on which said pressing means presses the sheet and a side of said image reading means.

15           18. An image reading apparatus comprising:

first image reading means for reading an image on one side of a sheet, on two sides of which images are formed;

20           second image reading means for reading an image on the other side of the sheet, on the two sides of which the images are formed;

first pressing means for regulating a rise of the sheet over a predetermined height from an image reading position of said first image reading means;

25           second pressing means for regulating a rise of the sheet over a predetermined height from an image reading

position of said second image reading means;

first charge eliminating means for eliminating static electricity accumulated on said sheet, from one side of said sheet; and

5 second charge eliminating means for eliminating static electricity accumulated on said sheet, from the other side of said sheet.

10 19. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein at least one of said first charge eliminating means and said second charge eliminating means is located between said first pressing means and said second pressing means.

15 20. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein at least one of said first charge eliminating means and said second charge eliminating means is located upstream of both the image reading position of said first image reading means and the  
20 image reading position of said second image reading means.

21. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein at least one of said first charge  
25 eliminating means and said second charge eliminating means is located downstream of both the image reading position of said first image reading means and the

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image reading position of said second image reading means.

22. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
5 18, comprising a curved guide path for guiding the sheet, wherein said first and second pressing means are disposed downstream of said guide path.

23. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
10 18, wherein each of said first and second pressing means comprises a pressing member consisting of an insulating member for pressing the sheet to the corresponding image reading position of said first and second image reading means.

24. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
15 18, wherein said first and second image reading means are contact image sensors.

25. An image reading apparatus according to Claim  
20 18, comprising a sheet delivery tray disposed at an exit of a transportation path for the sheet, on the two sides of which the images are formed, and a sheet stacking tray disposed at an entrance of the  
25 transportation path for the sheet and located above said sheet delivery tray.



26. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1 to 25; and

image forming means for forming an image on a  
5 recording medium, based on image read information read  
by said image reading apparatus.